Pollution by industrial effluents

3810. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Dhanbad, Raniganj and Durgapur, situated in the industrial belt of Bihar and West Bengal are becoming more and more polluted by the industrial effluents;

(b) whether Government are aware that River Damodar is one of the most polluted rivers of the country;

(c) what are the reasons for which Damodar Action Plan has not been implemented in Bihar and West Bengal;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board yet to formulate the standards of emission of gaseous and liquid effluents from Beehive Coke Ovens and Coal Washerias;

(e) whethed Government are aware that the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad has developed a beehive Coke Oven which is friendly to atmosphere and has minimum discharge to the atmosphere;

(f) if so, the reasons for which Government are not asking the entrepreneurs to convert their ovens to Kumbraj oven developed by CFRI; and

(g) whether Government have any plan to use the expertise of CFRI to study the discharge of effluents by the Coal Washeries and to standardise the Minimum discdarge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a and (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) Pollution abatement of tributaries of the River Ganga includnig River Damodar will be considered under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II which is under formulation.

(d) The standards in respect of Coal Washeries have been notified under the General Effluent Standards. The standards in respect of Beehive Coke Ovens have not been isssued.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Central Pollution Control Board has assessed the Beehive Coke Oven developed by the CFRI, Dhanbad, and found it to be effective for control of pollution. They have also sent their recommendations to the Bihar Pollution Control Board for its adoption by the units.

(g) The Central Pollution Control Board consulted the CFRI and taken into consideration their expert views in this regard.

Social forestry and ecological development project for Himachal Pradesh

3811. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a social forestry and Ecological Development Project for Changar Area of Himachal Pradesh has been undertaken by Government in collaboration with Government of Germany;

(b) whether it is under consideration;

(c) if so, by when the project's work is likely to commence;

(d) whether the officials of the Forest Department and the German specialists have jointly evaluated the project; and

(e) if so, when the evaluation report was received by Government and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The Social Forestry and Eco-Development Project for the Changar area of Himachal Pradesh has been posed to the German Government for external aid. The proposal has been discussed with the German officials. The final response of the donor agency is awaited. Hence,